

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

(Case No. 99,252-A)

In re Application of:

Mertens et al.

Serial No.: 09/998,889

Filed: November 1, 2001

For: Method and Apparatus for Removing a
Liquid from a Surface

Group Art Unit: 1746

Examiner: Saeed T. Chaudry

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED ON APRIL 24, 2003Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on April 24, 2003. A petition for a one month extension of time is being filed herewith, thereby extending the period for response from July 24, 2003 until August 25, 2003. Therefore, this response is timely.

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-16 are pending in the application. A terminal disclaimer is also being filed herewith. Please amend the application as follows.

Claim Amendments are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments being on page 5 of this paper.